

January 10, 1986

TO: File

FROM: Pamela Grubaugh-Littig, Reclamation Engineer *pgl*

RE: Site Visit, Texasgulf, Cane Creek Mine, ACT/019/005,  
Grand County, Utah

Members of the "A" Team (John J. Whitehead, Kathy M. Mutz, James R. Fricke, Richard V. Smith, Thomas Munson, Everett Hooper and Pamela Grubaugh-Littig) met with representatives of the Cane Creek potash operations (Chris Sterry, Plant Engineer and Rudy Higgins, General Manager) on Thursday, January 9, 1986. The purpose of the site visit was to overview the operations and discuss the Mining and Reclamation Plan (MRP) deficiencies.

A brief slide program was presented by Texasgulf tracing the history of the potash operations in Moab to the present. Mr. Higgins prefaced the presentation by stressing that the operation is working with a skeleton crew of 62 people, 50 percent less than two years ago, and the potash market is depressed. Cane Creek is developing a market for the salt in the tailings pile and they are hopeful there may be a potentially good market.

The MRP deficiency letter was discussed. Each individual on the team explained what would be needed to reply to the deficiencies in the MRP. A reply submittal by Texasgulf will be made as one complete document. The original time frame set by the Division for response to this deficiency letter is March 1986, but Mr. Higgins verbally requested an extension.

The overview of the plant site included the extensive evaporation ponds, pumping systems and overflow systems designed to capture runoff to avoid flow to the Colorado River as well as the salt tailing area and the milling operations.

Discussion of the postmining land use for the evaporation ponds and salt tailing and the plant site was introduced. Texasgulf is the owner and will, therefore, decide the postmining land use, possibly grazing, recreation and wildlife habitat.

Several notable reclamation problems may arise. The salt tailing area will be very onerous to reclaim. It is hoped that these salt tailing (NaCl) will be removed due to marketability. If the evaporation ponds are left in the terraced configuration, all of the lining, pipes, etc., will be removed. The terraced area will be "flushed" of salt for

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revegetation. The extent of flushing required may be extensive and must be quantified in the plan. If the plant site will remain for recreation, the possible use of each building would need to be explained. There are miles of fences, pipes and pumping systems that will be need to be removed and included in the bond estimate.

It was emphasized to Mr. Sterry to call the Division when there are any questions that need clarification, to avoid unnecessary delay.

btb  
cc: "A" Team  
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